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Carnegie library, Pittsburgh; Secretary, Miss Faith E. Smith, Chicago public library. Membership Committee: Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, Pratt Institute library school, chairman; Miss June R. Donnelly, Drexel Institute library school;

Paul Blackwelder, St. Louis public library. Program Committee: Miss Mary W. Plummer, New York library school, chairman; Miss Mary E. Hazeltine, Wisconsin library school; Frank K. Walter, New York State library school.

TRUSTEES' SECTION

(Hotel Maryland, May 20, 1911, 8:15 p. m.)

In the absence of the officers of the section, Judge M. T. Owens, of Whittier, California, was elected temporary chairman and Miss M. E. Ahern, temporary secretary.

A. E. Bostwick of St. Louis outlined the customs of trustees in various parts of the country. He showed plainly that trustees and librarians have certain duties in common which each is to perform to obtain certain results. The trustees should decide the general policy of the library and require the executive officer to do the work, leaving all details of management and administration in his hands. A large board is unwieldy; it is hard to obtain a quorum, and in most cases a few members perform all the work, so it is better to have a small board of three, or five persons at the most.

M. S. Dudgeon outlined conditions in Wisconsin, where the law provides five trustees, one from the school authorities, one from the council and three appointed by the mayor. R. R. Bowker told of a board of 50 members in the Brooklyn institute of natural science, where a few people did all the work and the rest gave consent. The Brooklyn public library has a board of seven managers, which in Mr. Bowker's opinion, is the ideal number.

Judge Rochester, trustee of the Seattle public library, told of their board of seven trustees appointed for the special purpose of looking after the interests of the library. It is an interested board. He expressed himself as opposed to elective officers acting as members, as it is likely to bring in either politics or friction with the Council.

Miss Meeker of Pasadena found that since the mayor has been a member of

their board they had had much more attention and interest from the city authorities than before.

Mr. Greene of Oakland, Cal., told of the confusion at present arising out of the commission form of government. Trustees were formerly elected and the board was usually used as a kindergarten for those who wished to enter politics. He was opposed to small boards, since they usually resolved themselves into a one-man power.

S. H. Ranck of Grand Rapids spoke of the success of their elective board. They had no failure for lack of quorum and the election of trustees aroused general interest in the library.

Judge Owens of Whittier cited a remarkable instance where no politics entered into any branch of the city government. This year the library tax is 75 cents per capita of the inhabitants; next year it will be \$1.

Henry E. Legler of Chicago advocated a board of nine for large libraries, as it gave more material from which to form committees and made it unnecessary to burden any one member with all the work.

Mr. Newmark, president of the Los Angeles board, told of the five trustees appointed by the mayor. They had recently taken their library out from under municipal civil service.

P. B. Wright outlined the civil service scheme of the Los Angeles library, where the librarian and the staff are exempt from municipal civil service. Mr. Giffen, trustee of the Los Angeles public library, pointed out the new hope for better things in Los Angeles and spoke of the good qualities of the present board, which was likely to remain for some time. Los Angeles has four cents on the dollar for library purposes.

Judge Rochester of Seattle spoke of the tremendous improvement that had been made in the service of the Seattle public library since the library has been exempted from municipal civil service. Mr. Legler

told of the efficiency records in the Chicago public library and was quite positive in the good results that were coming from the use of these. The meeting was not large, but full of interest.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROUND TABLE

The Public Documents Round Table was called to order by George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut, chairman of the Committee on public documents, at 8:35 p. m., Friday, May 19, in the private dining-room of the Hotel Maryland. Samuel H. Ranck, librarian of the Grand Rapids public library, also a member of the Committee on public documents, was chosen secretary.

The prevailing interest in public documents was made very evident by the large number of librarians present.

The secretary read a letter from the Superintendent of Documents, Mr. August Donath, expressing his regret at not being able to be present to participate in the proceedings, as he believed it would better serve the interests of the office of Superintendent of Documents and the libraries in whose behalf this office was originally created if this representative of the government could meet with the librarians and talk over the needs and hopes of the library world.

As Mr. Donath's paper concerning the Public Documents situation from the standpoint of the Superintendent of Documents, with accompanying suggestions, had not been received, the attention of the meeting was devoted to some of the letters which have been received by the committee and the questions asked by those present.

The first letter read was from Mr. Ernest Bruncken, assistant register of copyrights and a member of the Committee on public documents, who was unable to be present. In this letter Mr. Bruncken repeated his suggestions made at the Public Documents Round Table at Mackinac Island, viz.:

That provision should be made whereby the Superintendent of Documents can issue a bulletin daily, or at least three times a week, showing all the new publications of the departments of government, especially during a session of Congress, which bulletin would be promptly and regularly sent to the larger libraries in order that librarians may know what has been officially published and endeavor to secure such as they require either from the Superintendent of Documents or through their representatives in Congress. Such a list would enable our librarians to secure needed documents very shortly after mention had been made of them in the daily press. The publication of such a list is very much needed and would without doubt do much in simplifying the whole document question.

On motion of Mr. J. M. Hitt, state librarian of Washington, which was discussed by Mrs. H. P. Davison, librarian of the San Diego public library and by Mr. Elias J. Lien, state librarian of Minnesota, the recommendation of Mr. Bruncken was endorsed by the meeting unanimously.

The Committee on public documents summarized this recommendation and the debate on the same in the following resolution, which it reported to the council, where it was adopted.

As many librarians are seriously handicapped in their reference work through lack of definite information as to what publications have been issued by the several departments at Washington, until the receipt of the Monthly catalogue of government publications, which is not published until several weeks after the period covered by each issue,